
Introduced by Senator Speier

February 14, 2003

An act to add Section 1255.4 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 244, as introduced, Speier. Health facilities: emergency departments: oncall services.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of health facilities, administered by the State Department of Health Services.

This bill would require the department to conduct a survey of every health facility that operates an emergency department to obtain specified information to identify any areas of systematic problems that are contributing to the lack of access to oncall physician services in emergency departments that is impacting the quality of patient care in hospitals.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1255.4 is added to the Health and Safety
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 1255.4. (a) The department, with input from representatives
- 4 from medical providers, shall conduct a survey of every hospital
- 5 that operates an emergency department to collect information to
- 6 identify any areas of systematic problems that are contributing to
- 7 the lack of access to oncall physician services that is impacting the
- 8 quality of patient care in hospitals.

1 (b) Specific information collected in the survey shall be limited
2 to information with respect to the diversion of ambulance traffic
3 and the availability of medical specialties. The information shall
4 include the hours on diversion and the reasons for diversion for
5 each hospital, and the hours, per designated specialty, during
6 which the specialty was not available for each hospital.

7 (c) (1) The department shall develop standardized definitions
8 applicable to the survey to ensure accuracy of the reported data.

9 (2) The information collected for the survey shall exclude all
10 identifying information regarding the health facility, staff, or
11 emergency personnel except that information shall be
12 distinguished by geographic area.

13 (d) The failure of a health facility to participate in the survey
14 specified in this section shall not constitute a violation of Section
15 1290.

